

Comprehensive Situation Report No. 2
Devils Lake Flood 1995

Division of Emergency Management
and
State Water Commission
Incident No. 95-004

Date: February 3, 1995 Time: 8:00 a. m.

TO: Governor Edward Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

ATTENTION: Appropriate State and Local Agencies

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Potential flooding in 1995, based on expected 1432.3 or greater mean sea level (msl) for Devil Lake.

The water level of Devils Lake is 1431.0 msl as of February 2, 1995.

2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous report.

3. DAMAGE: in addition to previous reports, county officials of the impacted area have indicated that at present, the majority of threatened county roads are Federal Aid System (FAS) roads. Numerous township roads will also be seriously impacted.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has indicated that the Narrows boat ramp will be completely inundated at 1431.5 msl. At 1432 most of the packing and associated utilities will be unusable.

Ramsey County official reported approximately one-third of the 8,000 homes in the city of Devil Lake are experiencing basement seepage problems. Benson County officials reported approximately two-thirds of the homes in Minnewaukan are experiencing basement seepage problems.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

Local: No change from previous report.

state: No change from previous report.

Federal: No change from previous report.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous report

6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

Local: Ramsey County officials and Americorps/Team USDA are making significant progress regarding identifying people and facilities which will be in harms way this summer. They have identified and plotted on a map the properties to be impacted at various lake levels.

Benson and Ramsey Counties enrollment applications for the National Flood Insurance Program received

approval from FEMA as of January 21, 1995. Properly owners in the two counties can now purchase flood insurance.

Creel Bay residents in Ramsey County held a meeting on January 24, 1995. Potential problems and possible flood-fight actions were discussed. The group will continue to share information, and provide input to local officials.

Plumbers from the Devils Lake area have provided public information regarding flood and seepage protective measures.

State: Two North Dakota Division of Emergency Management staff members conducted on-site problem assessment reviews with local officials in Benson, Nelson, and Ramsey Counties January 23-25, 1995.

State Water Commission staff are evaluating alternatives to reduce flood impacts around Devils Lake. These alternatives include storing water in the upper basin, raising the state and federal roads to a minimum elevation of 1435 msl, constructing an outlet from Devils Lake to Stump Lake, and constructing an outlet from Devils Lake to the Sheyenne River.

Officials of the American Red Cross and the Garrison Conservancy District were briefed by the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management on the Devils Lake situation.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department staff are removing pot poles, courtesy ramps, and vault toilets, and discontinuing and capping off electrical service, at the "Narrows recreation area. At Grahams Island State Park, personnel are planning to place additional rip-rap on the harbor breakwater.

Federal: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed an informational document to provide technical assistance for protection from the potential 1995 spring flood. It includes an assessment of structural alternatives and a wind generated wave analysis.

A technical workshop has been scheduled in Devils Lake on February 7, 1995 to thoroughly review and discuss engineering actions that may be taken to relieve the flood impact. Planned participants are, city engineers, county engineers, and consulting engineers from the impacted area, Division of Emergency Management and National Guard, North Dakota Department of Transportation, State Water Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District.

The Corps of Engineers will host a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 7, 1995 at the Devils Lake Armory regarding possible protective measures.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous report.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The 54th Legislative assembly is currently discussing potential legislative measures concerning the impending flood problems in the Devils Lake Basin.

Serious agricultural impact in terms of prevented planting and livestock feeding practices have already occurred and/or are expected to magnify.

Ramsey County officials have identified Fenster Slough, in Nixon Township of eastern Ramsey County, as having the potential of flooding farmland surrounding the slough and a roadway south of the slough.

A briefing was provided to the FEMA Region VIII Director on the Devils Lake situation on January 31, 1995. Providing this briefing were officials from Benson, Nelson, and Ramsey counties, the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management, North Dakota Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the